

SHORTER NOTES

AN ALTERNATIVE SIMPLIFIED MEDIUM FOR GROWING PROTHAL-LIA.—It has been brought to my attention that the company which was the source of the nutrient plant tablets specified in my article on nutrient media (Amer. Fern J. 69:122. 1979) is no longer in business. A greenhouse and garden supply store has provided a suitable substitute. Seven drops per liter of agar of "Schultz-Instant Liquid Plant Food" provides a suitable nutrient medium. The wholesale source is the A. Y. Schultz Company, St. Louis, MO 63043. If this specific nutrient is not available, any commercial liquid plant food would be suitable, using the concentration specified by the manufacturer.—*Norman P. Marengo, Department of Biology, C. W. Post College, Long Island University, Greenvale, NY 11548.*

POLYSTICHUM MUNITUM ON BARANOF ISLAND, SOUTHEASTERN ALASKA.—During August of 1981, while conducting plant surveys from the M/V SITKA RANGER, I found Western Sword-fern (*Polystichum munitum* (Kaulf.) Presl) at two localities on southeastern Baranof Island. These are the first reports of *P. munitum* from this island and extend the plant's range westward about 18 km.

The first site was on the steep north shore of Port Walter at the western end of the narrows 5 km from the fjord's entrance (56°23'N, 134°41'W) at an elevation of about 10 m. The plants (*Muller 4630*) were common on the western edge of an old rock-slide in a well drained, wet area carpeted by mosses, with herbaceous vegetation and an open canopy of deciduous shrubs. I also collected *P. munitum* 10 km to the south of Port Walter, in Port Armstrong (*Muller 4623, 4625, 4626*), where it grew on the north shore around the ruins of an abandoned whaling station (56°18'N, 134°40'W). The plants were abundant on rocky, sloping, upper beach meadows and in the adjacent forest of *Picea sitchensis* (Bong.) Carr. and *Tsuga heterophylla* (Raf.) Sarg. It is surprising that the fern has not previously been collected here, since the whaling station once was a significant settlement and port.

Additional colonies of *P. munitum* undoubtedly will be found further north and west as Baranof Island is more fully explored. The plant is known to occur across Chatham Strait on Kuiu Island, and its range extends down the Pacific Coast to Idaho, Montana and California.

Voucher specimens are at the U.S.D.A. Forest Service herbarium, Sitka, Alaska (TNFS), the University of Washington herbarium, Seattle (WTU), and the herbarium at the University of Alaska Museum, Fairbanks (ALA).—*Mary Clay Muller, Chatham Area, Tongass National Forest, P.O. Box 1980, Sitka, AK 99835.*